

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01867 211508Z
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 HA-05 SP-02
INR-10 L-03 INRE-00 SAB-02 /050 W
-----071745 211519Z /41
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6181

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1867

STADIS//////////

FOR BENNET/MOSS FROM AMBASSADOR JORDEN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PN, PFOR, PEPR
SUBJECT: STONE-CASE LETTER TO TORRIJOS

REF: A) STATE 070202 B) STATE 070457

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS WITH SENATOR STONE AND CLARIFICATION PROVIDED IN REF. B. YOU SHOULD KNOW, AND MAY PERHAPS WISH TO INFORM STONE, THAT THERE ARE THREE FACTUAL ERRORS IN THE LETTER (REF. A). FIRST, I WAS PRESENT AT MEETING OF SENATOR MELCHER AND OTHERS WITH TORRIJOS MENTIONED IN PARA. 3 OF LETTER. THE GENERAL NEVER SAID HE WOULD STEP DOWN AND TURN COUNTRY OVER TO CIVILIAN RULE IF THE TREATIES WERE APPROVED BY THE SENATE. WHAT HE SAID WAS WHAT HE HAD EARLIER SAID TO OTHER SENATORS--THAT IF HE WERE THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO TREATY RATIFICATION, THEN HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LEAVE THE SCENE--IF THAT WERE THE NECESSARY PRICE FOR PANAMA'S ACHIEVING ITS FULL INDEPENDENCE.

2. SECOND ERROR IS IN NEXT SENTENCE. TORRIJOS NEVER PROMISED TO "LEGALIZE ALL POLITICAL PARTIES" TO SAY NOTHING OF
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DOING SO IN ADVANCE OF THE AUGUST 1978 ELECTIONS. HE HAS SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A NEW LAW SETTING THE CRITERIA FOR LEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND OPENING THE WAY FOR PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. HE HAS SAID--AND REAFFIRMED IN A LETTER TO SENATOR HEINZ--THAT HE PLANNED TO DO THAT "IN MUCH LESS THAN FIVE YEARS."

3. FINALLY, THE GENERAL HAS NEVER SAID THAT THE EXILES
COULD "RETURN AT ANY TIME." (LAST SENTENCE IN PARA. 3).
WHAT HE DID SAY WAS THAT THE EXILES COULD RETURN "THE DAY
AFTER THE TREATIES ARE RATIFIED."

4. FYI: THERE IS SOME OBSCURITY REGARDING THE WILLINGNESS
TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS FOR THE AUGUST ELECTIONS.
I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THE CUBAN-AMERICAN INTERMEDIARY
SENT BY STONE NEVER IN FACT HAD A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH
TORRIJOS. I AM TRYING TO CHECK WHETHER SOME PROMISE ALONG
THIS LINE MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED ALONG BY THOSE WHO WERE IN
TOUCH WITH THE INTERMEDIARY. END FYI.

5. I LEAVE IT TO YOU WHETHER STONE SHOULD BE INFORMED OF
THESE DISCREPANCIES WITH A POSSIBLE VIEW TO RECASTING HIS
LETTER. ALL THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE
MAIN THRUST OF STONE'S EFFORT APPEARS TO BE A POSITIVE
ONE. WITH THAT IN MIND, I BELIEVE I HAVE CONVINCED SOME
OF THOSE CLOSE TO TORRIJOS THAT A POLITE AND REASONED
RESPONSE WOULD BE THE PROPER ONE--ONE THAT WOULD STRESS THE
POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL/HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, I.E.
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHAT IS PLANNED. NEEDLESS TO SAY,
THIS HAS MEANT OVERCOMING THE UNIVERSALLY NEGATIVE REACTION
THAT THE UNGRACEFUL PHRASING OF THE SENATORIAL LETTER GEN-
ERATED HERE. I HOPE TO GET BACK TO YOU WITH THE RESPONSE
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BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, CANALS, UPPER HOUSE
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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